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NAS WHITING FIELD  
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PRESS RELEASE REGARDING PROPOSED LISTING ON NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST NAS  
WHITING FIELD FL  
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NAVFAC SOUTHERN

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASENAS WHITING FIELD PROPOSED FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field anticipates that it will be proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prioritize and assure funding is available for investigation and cleanup of former waste disposal sites.

NAS Whiting Field began conducting environmental studies into its past waste disposal practices in the mid - 1980's, well in advance of this proposed listing, under the Navy Assessment and Control of Industrial Pollutants (NACIP) program. Investigations continue under the Installation Restoration Program (IR) where a total of 23 waste disposal sites have been identified that require further study and possible remediation. The IR program is the Department of Defense program that addresses contamination from past spills and waste disposal practices on federal facilities in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

As of this writing, field work under the Remedial Investigation Phase of the IR Program has been completed on 18 of the 23 sites. Evaluating remediation techniques and methods to cleanup the identified sites will be the next stage of the IR program. Published reports on these investigations, collectively titled NAS Whiting Field Administrative Record, are available for review in the Milton Public Library.

The community will continue to be involved in cleanup efforts at Whiting Field through participation in public meetings and reviews of proposed environmental remediation plans. Several Technical Review Committee meetings have already been held with representatives of the public, local leaders and private citizens, detailing progress made in the IR program and requesting comments.

Significant accomplishments to reduce possible contamination have been made in conjunction with the IR program:

1. Reduced hazardous waste generation by approximately 75% through process and maintenance changes.
2. Removed 24 underground storage tanks.
3. Installed a concrete liner around two 230,000 gallon aviation fuel storage tanks for containment in the event of a leak.
4. Installed activated carbon filters on potable water wells to remove any contaminants that may be present and coordinated analysis with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to insure safe drinking water.
5. Performed lead and copper analysis on drinking water. Results indicated these potential contaminants were well below action levels established by state and federal guidelines.
6. Constructed an environmentally safe fire training facility.
7. Initiated an aggressive program to replace outdated underground storage tanks with above ground tanks meeting all environmental standards.

8. Participant in the Florida Petroleum Contamination Agreement which provides for an accelerated schedule for investigation and remediation of petroleum contaminated sites.

9. Has in progress studies to evaluate wastewater treatment technology, identify potential sources of contamination in stormwater run-off, and reduce generation of solid waste.

10. Presently conducting a hazardous waste minimization study to identify and further reduce hazardous material usage and hazardous waste generation.

In short, NAS Whiting Field has conducted the IR program from the beginning as if it was an NPL site. Whiting is presently at the same stage in the program as many installations that have been on the NPL for years.

For further information on any of the programs at NAS Whiting Field or the proposed NPL status, please contact the Public Affairs Officer, 7550 USS Essex Street, Suite 203, Milton, Florida 32570-6155, or call (904) 623-7651.